

Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation 95-15

to the Department of Energy

Regarding the Site Technology Coordination Group

Approved November 2, 1995

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board (RF-CAB) has been participating in the Site Technology Coordination Group (STCG) for several months and is experiencing much frustration with the lack of progress and good process demonstrated by the STCG. Tom Marshall and Lisa Hanson have been making earnest efforts to assist in developing a process for identifying site technology needs and in developing a process for including outside stakeholders in the STCG.

It appears that beyond the signing of the charter in January of 1994 there has been little upper management support for the STCG. Because this support is lacking, Department of Energy (DOE) representatives are not receiving the guidance or resources needed for a successful initiative.

Technology development/identification should be a priority for DOE Rocky Flats. Unfortunately, this does not seem to be the case even though the site was recently named the "Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site." There is a great need and potential for technology development/identification in the areas of waste management, environmental restoration, decontamination and decommissioning, and plutonium/residue storage and treatment. Not only will this allow for better cleanup but will very likely lead to cost savings.

Other sites are further along in the technology identification process and thus have received funding for technologies to address their site's waste management and environmental restoration problems. It should be noted that a new plutonium focus area with which the STCG is supposed to interact has been developed. It is important that Rocky Flats be very involved with technology development efforts within this area.

RF-CAB's waste disposal recommendation states that DOE should "vigorously pursue a research program aimed at developing technologies to make radioactive waste benign." Stakeholder participation in technology development/identification is imperative if credible decisions that reflect the values and the expectations of the community are to be reached. Stakeholders often bring a different point of view and different values to the table than that of the "experts." Making stakeholders an equal participant in the technology development/identification process will allow for: fresh perspectives, alignment of technology development/identification work with community expectations and values, additional

resources and better decisions.

RF-CAB is very interested in seeing a technology development/identification process that addresses technology needs, development and identification in a comprehensive manner. We are also interested in seeing a process that is fully inclusive of stakeholders as equal partners.

The Board requests that you provide the necessary policy makers to guide and support the STCG effort. Further, experienced public involvement professionals should assist the group in obtaining necessary stakeholder involvement. Finally, we request that you supply a comprehensive list of technology needs, to the extent that it is developed, to the Board by its December 7th meeting.

The next meeting of the STCG is November 14th. We not only hope to see changes and progress at this meeting, but would like to hear your views on this issue at this time.

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is a community advisory group that reviews and provides recommendations on cleanup plans for Rocky Flats, a former nuclear weapons plant outside of Denver, Colorado.

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